

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) In a motor vehicle of the type having a frame assembly, a set of wheels rotatably supported on said frame assembly and a power train operable to drive at least one of said set of wheels, the power train including a fuel cell system, the improvement comprising:

a fluid storage volume defined in an elongated rail portion of the frame assembly, said fluid storage volume being in fluid communication with said fuel cell system to provide an operational fluid thereto, said operational fluid being selected from the group consisting of a fuel, an oxidant and a cooling fluid;

a fuel tank supported on said frame assembly and in fluid communication with said power train to provide a primary source of said fuel thereto such that said fluid storage volume is a reserve fuel tank; [[and]]

an auxiliary frame structure coupled to the frame assembly, the auxiliary frame structure defining a crush zone; and

wherein said elongated rail portion comprises a plurality of elongated rail portions, said plurality of elongated rail portions including at least one cross frame rail, said fluid storage volume being defined within at least one of said cross frame rail and at least one of said elongated rail portion.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The motor vehicle of claim 1 wherein said fluid storage volume is substantially less than said fuel tank by volume.

4. (Withdrawn) The motor vehicle of claim 1 wherein said operational fluid is compressed air.

5. (Withdrawn) The motor vehicle of claim 1 wherein said operational fluid is coolant.

6. (Withdrawn) The motor vehicle of claim 1 wherein said fluid storage volume has a first chamber and a second chamber, said first chamber in fluid communication with said power train to provide a first operational fluid thereto.

7. (Withdrawn) The motor vehicle of claim 6 wherein said second chamber is in fluid communication with said power train to provide a second operational fluid different from said first operational fluid.

8. (Withdrawn) The motor vehicle of claim 6 wherein said second chamber is a vacant chamber.

9. (Original) The motor vehicle of claim 1 wherein said fluid storage volume has a liner formed therein to seal said fluid storage volume.

10. (Original) The motor vehicle of claim 1 wherein said fluid storage volume is filled with a hydrogen storage media.

11. (Previously Presented) The motor vehicle of claim 1 wherein said elongated rail portion comprises a longitudinal frame rail.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A motor vehicle comprising:

a frame assembly including a plurality of elongated rails, including at least one cross frame rail and at least one longitudinal frame rail, said frame assembly further comprising an auxiliary frame structure having a pair of longitudinally oriented rails extending generally parallel to the elongated rails;

a power train supported on said frame assembly, said power train including a fuel cell operable to convert a hydrogen-containing fuel and an oxidant into electrical energy and a motor electrically connected to said fuel cell to convert said electrical energy into rotary movement of a shaft;

a radiator supported on said frame assembly, said radiator in fluid communication with said power train such that a cooling fluid circulates therethrough;

a set of wheels rotatably supported on said frame assembly, at least one of said set of wheels operably coupled to said shaft for driving said at least one of said set of wheels;

a fuel tank supported on said frame assembly and in fluid communication with said fuel cell to provide a primary source of said hydrogen-containing fuel thereto; and

a fluid storage volume defined within said at least one cross frame rail and said at least one longitudinal cross rail, and in fluid communication with said power train to provide an operational fluid thereto, said operational fluid being selected from the group consisting of said hydrogen-containing fuel, said oxidant and said cooling fluid.

15. (Original) The motor vehicle of claim 14 wherein said operational fluid is said hydrogen-containing fuel.

16. (Previously Presented) The motor vehicle of claim 15 wherein said fluid storage volume is substantially less than said fuel tank by volume.

17. (Withdrawn) The motor vehicle of claim 14 wherein said operational fluid is compressed air.

18. (Withdrawn) The motor vehicle of claim 14 wherein said operational fluid is coolant.

19. (Withdrawn) The motor vehicle of claim 14 wherein said fluid storage volume has a first chamber and a second chamber, said first chamber in fluid communication with said power train to provide a first operational fluid thereto.

20. (Withdrawn) The motor vehicle of claim 19 wherein said second chamber is in fluid communication with said power train to provide a second operational fluid different from said first operational fluid.

21. (Withdrawn) The motor vehicle of claim 19 wherein said second chamber is a vacant chamber.

22. (Original) The motor vehicle of claim 14 wherein said fluid storage volume has a liner formed therein for sealing said fluid storage volume.

23. (Original) The motor vehicle of claim 14 wherein said fluid storage volume is filled with a storage media.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell powered motor vehicle comprising:

a frame assembly including at least one cross frame rail, ~~[[and]]~~ at least one longitudinal frame rail and an auxiliary frame structure generally parallel to the elongated rail;

a power train supported on said frame assembly, said power train including a fuel cell operable to convert a hydrogen-containing gas and an oxidant into electrical energy and a motor electrically connected to said fuel cell to convert said electrical energy into rotary movement of a shaft;

a fuel tank supported on said frame assembly and in fluid communication with said fuel cell to provide a primary source of said hydrogen-containing gas thereto; and

a fluid storage volume defined within the cross frame rail and the longitudinal frame rail and in fluid communication with said power train to provide said hydrogen-containing gas to said fuel cell.

28. (Previously Presented) The motor vehicle of claim 27 wherein said fluid storage volume is filled with a storage media.